

1 In the Claims:

2 1. A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer,
3 comprising:

4 displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
5 receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users
6 and further relating to content of the electronic book; and
7 restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

8 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes restricting the access
9 based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book.

10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing
11 of text within the electronic book and permitting no viewing of images within the
12 electronic book.

13 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes restricting access to
14 particular portions of the electronic book based upon the information.

15 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes receiving standard
16 ratings relating to the access to the electronic books.

17 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing
18 of only selected portions of the electronic book.

19 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing
20 of only selected pages of the electronic book.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing
2 of no portion of the electronic book.

3 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting unlimited
4 access to the electronic book.

5 10. A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer,
6 comprising:

7 displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
8 receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users
9 and further relating to an identification of potential users; and
10 restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

11 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing
12 of no portion of the electronic book.

13 12. A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic
14 books for display on a viewer, comprising:

15 storing a plurality of electronic books for display on a viewer;
16 permitting a particular user to assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the
17 ratings being related to content of the electronic books; and
18 restricting access by other users to the electronic books based upon the assigned
19 ratings.

20 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting the user
21 to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting step includes selectively
2 permitting access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of
3 ratings.

4 15. The method of claim 12, further including requiring the particular user to enter
5 a password in order to assign the ratings.

6 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting a default
7 user to assign the rating.

8 17. A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for
9 display on a viewer, comprising:

10 storing an electronic book for display on a viewer;
11 permitting a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in
12 restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and
13 restricting access by other users to the content of the electronic book based upon
14 the particular user's selected portions.

15 18. A method for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer,
16 comprising:

17 displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having
18 a series of pages arranged in a particular order;
19 receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users;
20 and
21 permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular
22 order.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing
2 of the pages only in sequential order.

3 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing
4 of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

5 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing
6 of the pages based upon user-entered information.

7 22. A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer,
8 comprising:

9 displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having
10 a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality
11 of sections;

12 receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and
13 permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular
14 order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon
15 selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

16 23. A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer,
17 comprising:

18 displaying an electronic book on a viewer;
19 receiving information relating to a viewer mode for displaying the electronic book
20 on the viewer; and
21 restricting access to a content of the electronic book based upon the viewer mode.

22 24. The method of claim 23, wherein:

1 the receiving step includes receiving information relating to access levels
2 concerning permitted access of potential users to the content and relating to a rating for
3 the electronic book; and

4 the restricting step includes restricting the access to the content based upon the
5 information and the viewer mode.

6 25. An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer,
7 comprising:

8 a display that displays an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
9 a receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic
10 book by potential users and further relating to content of the electronic book; and

11 a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the
12 information.

13 26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a rating access
14 module that restricts the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book.

15 27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a permitting
16 module that permits viewing of text within the electronic book and permits no viewing
17 of images within the electronic book.

18 28. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a book
19 sections access module that restricts access to particular portions of the electronic book
20 based upon the information.

21 29. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the receiving module includes a module that
22 receives standard ratings relating to the access to the electronic books.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a selected
2 viewing module that permits viewing of only selected portions of the electronic book.

3 31. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that
4 permits viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

5 32. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that
6 permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

7 33. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that
8 permits unlimited access to the electronic book.

9 34. An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer,
10 comprising:
11 a display that displays an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
12 a receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic
13 book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and
14 a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the
15 information.

16 35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the restricting module includes a module that
17 permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

18 36. An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored
19 electronic books for display on a viewer, comprising:
20 a memory that stores a plurality of electronic books for display on a viewer;
21 a permitting module that permits a particular user to assign a rating to each of the
22 electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books; and

1 a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the electronic books
2 based upon the assigned ratings.

3 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a module that
4 permits the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range
5 of ratings.

6 38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restricting module includes a selective
7 permitting module that selectively permits access to the electronic books based upon the
8 ratings within the range of ratings.

9 39. The apparatus of claim 36, further including a password module that requires the
10 particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

11 40. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a rating
12 module that permits a default user to assign the rating.

13 41. An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book
14 for display on a viewer, comprising:

15 a storing module that stores an electronic book for display on a viewer;
16 a permitting module that permits a particular user to select portions of the
17 electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and
18 a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the content of the
19 electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions.

20 42. An apparatus for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer,
21 comprising:

1 a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic
2 book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;
3 a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic
4 book by potential users; and
5 a permitting module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the
6 pages only in the particular order.

7 43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that
8 permits viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

9 44. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that
10 permits viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one
11 of the pages.

12 45. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a viewing
13 module that permits viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

14 46. An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer,
15 comprising:

16 a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic
17 book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having
18 a plurality of sections;

19 a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic
20 book by a user; and

21 a viewing module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages
22 only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the
23 particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to
24 each page.

1 47. An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer,
2 comprising:

3 a display that displays an electronic book on a viewer;
4 a receiving module that receives information relating to a viewer mode for
5 displaying the electronic book on the viewer; and
6 a restricting module that restricts access to a content of the electronic book based
7 upon the viewer mode.

8 48. The apparatus of claim 47, wherein:
9 the receiving module includes an access module that receives information relating
10 to access levels concerning permitted access of potential users to the content and relating
11 to a rating for the electronic book; and
12 the restricting module includes a module that restricts the access to the content
13 based upon the information and the viewer mode.

14 49. The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the access level information is included in a
15 header of the electronic book.

16 50. A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer
17 and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:
18 displaying a screen on a viewer;
19 displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book, the page including at
20 least a portion of content of the electronic book;
21 permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the
22 screen; and
23 displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction
24 of the identified content.

1 51. A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a
2 viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:
3 a screen for display on a viewer;
4 a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book, the page
5 including at least a portion of content of the electronic book and a section permitting a
6 user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen; and
7 a restrict section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of
8 the identified content.

9 52. A method for electronically displaying a screen on a viewer for receiving access
10 levels and a viewer mode relating to display of electronic books on the viewer,
11 comprising:
12 displaying a screen on a viewer for displaying electronic books;
13 displaying a name section within the screen for identifying a potential user of the
14 viewer;
15 displaying an access level section within the screen for permitting entry of an
16 access level for the user, the access level being used for restricting access to the electronic
17 books by the user; and
18 displaying a viewer mode section within the screen for receiving entry of a viewer
19 mode, the viewer mode being used for determining a type of information used to restrict
20 access to the electronic books.

21 53. A screen for use in electronically displaying a screen on a viewer for receiving
22 access levels and a viewer mode relating to display of electronic books on the viewer,
23 comprising:
24 a screen for display on a viewer for use in displaying electronic books;
25 a name section within the screen for identifying a potential user of the viewer;

1 an access level section within the screen for permitting entry of an access level
2 for the user, the access level being used for restricting access to the electronic books by
3 the user; and
4 a viewer mode section within the screen for receiving entry of a viewer mode, the
5 viewer mode being used for determining a type of information used to restrict access to
6 the electronic books.